

THE BASICS

Your first name: Sean
Your email address: Srichey@uvic.ca
Your partner university: Canterbury ChristChurch
Your UVic major during the exchange: Political Science
UVic session(s) during which you did your exchange: Fall 2009

GENERAL EVALUATION

Please rate your overall exchange experience on a scale of 1 to 5 (5 is the best rating):

Rating: 4

Comments: It was good and I'm glad I did it, but it was not as stellar as other reports I had heard.

ARRIVAL

How satisfied were you with your experience of arriving in your host country or city? Please rate on a scale of 1 to 5 (5 is the best rating):

Rating: 1

Comments: On arrival they told me to come back in a week, when I came back they told me I was a week late and had missed all the orientation.

What assistance, if any, did you receive when you arrived at your exchange destination?

None, although they would have come collected me from the airport which may have worked out better.

How difficult was it for you to obtain your travel documents (visa, etc.)?

Easy, since I was going for less than 6 months, however it took Christchurch along time to send me and acceptance letter which I needed.

ORIENTATION AND ASSISTANCE

How satisfied were you with the orientation and assistance available to students at your partner university? Please rate on a scale of 1 to 5 (5 is the best rating):

Rating: 2

Comments: It was there, I just missed it.

How easy was it to find information you needed to know right away? Fairly easy

What help did you receive from the international staff or office? They put me in touch with my academic supervisor

What was your impression of the international staff or office? They were disorganized and overworked, with a lot of incoming students.

What was the orientation like at your partner university, if there was one, and how well did it suit your needs?

It was good, lots of activities for internationals and freshers.

What was it like to adjust to the culture of your exchange site and were there people you could talk to about what you were experiencing?

Culture shock was minimal.

HOUSING

How satisfied were you with the housing available to students? Please rate on a scale of 1 to 5 (5 is the best rating):

Rating: 3

Comments It was comparable to UVic cluster but unfortunately a bit of a walk from campus, and not much of a community atmosphere.

How early could students move in to housing at the beginning of term? A week before

What options were available for meal plans or cooking facilities? Full cooking facilities, depended on the accommodation.

How satisfied were you with the food? It was my own cooking, so not very.

How close are the residences to the university? 15 minute walk, buses are expensive.

Could students stay in the residences during major holidays? Yes.

Which residence would you recommend to UVic students? Lanfranc if you want to be close to the university, cook for yourself, and get to know people.

If you lived in off-campus housing, how easy was it to find?

What should future UVic exchange students know about living off-campus?

COURSE REGISTRATION

How satisfied were you with the registration process at your partner university? Please rate on a scale of 1 to 5 (5 is the best rating):

Rating:3

Comments: It had to go through a number of different people over multiple meetings, some of whom did not understand the exchange program, and why I was only there for one semester.

Please describe the registration process at your partner university.

The exchange academic coordinator would set up meetings with department heads, who I would then go meet with about selecting courses.

What kind of help was available?

Tony the coordinator was very helpful.

How successful were you in registering for classes you wanted?

Somewhat, they have a less flexible program. And the business department wouldn't let me take a course.

What advice would you offer to next year's exchange students about registration at your partner university?

Well almost all their courses are full year, and the short ones have exams in January, which meant I ended up taking half courses. They call courses modules, and programs courses, which was confusing.

ACADEMICS

How satisfied were you with the academic program at your partner university? Please rate on a scale of 1 to 5 (5 is the best rating):

Rating: 3

Comments: Some courses were good, others not so much.

How did the style of teaching at your partner university compare with that at UVic?

All my courses were 2 or 3 hour lectures once a week.

How did the workload compare to what you would expect at UVic?

Slightly less

How many courses did you take in your first term abroad?

5

Your second term?

n/a

What would you recommend as an appropriate course load for other UVic students visiting your partner university?

5 was fine, and that is what you are paying for.

What specific courses would you recommend to visiting UVic students?

If you could somehow get into the program with the American Students, which was 2 set courses and then 3 others of your choosing.

Why?

They got to go on field trips.

If you studied in a non-English speaking country, what was the availability of courses offered in English?

What advice would you give UVic students about succeeding academically at your partner university?

Try to take courses in the middle of the week so you are not tempted to skip.

What was your impression of the computer facilities, library, and internet access at your partner university?

Good, they had just built a new library. But other facilities outside the library were limited.

What electronic devices would you recommend a UVic student bring (laptop, PDA, etc.)?

An ipod for the walk to class, and your laptop. For phone if you can put a different Sim card in it.

COSTS

Please indicate currency: Canadian Dollars

Books - per term: 300

Accommodation - per month: 2,400

Meals - per month: 300

Local transportation - per month: 50

Health insurance - per term: 200

Personal spending - per term: 2000

Communications (phone, etc.) - per term: 150

Other university related fees - per term:

EXTRA-CURRICULAR/SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

How satisfied were you with the out-of-class opportunities at your exchange site? Please rate on a scale of 1 to 5 (5 is the best rating):

Rating: 4

Comments: [CCC is a very sports oriented school.](#)

What organized activities (clubs, sports, etc.) were available to students?

[Lots of teams, other activities were limited.](#)

What extra-curricular activities would you recommend to future exchange students?

[Join a team, rugby is good.](#)

What do you recommend other visiting students see or do on their weekends or holidays?

[Go to Dover, London, etc.](#)

What opportunities were there for students to work on-campus?

[few](#)

Off-campus?

[more](#)

What volunteer or internship opportunities were there for students?

[No idea.](#)

SAFETY AND HEALTH

How safe did you feel at your exchange site? Please rate on a scale of 1 to 5 (5 is the best rating):

Rating: 5

Comments [It's England](#)

What are the biggest safety concerns for future exchange students going to your exchange site?

[Not looking the right way when crossing the street.](#)

What are the biggest health concerns for future exchange students going to your exchange site?

[Excessive drinking, don't try and keep up with the locals.](#)

PERSONAL AND CULTURAL CONNECTIONS

What was it like making friends?

[Short time limited the possibilities and I was older than most of the freshers I was hanging out with.](#)

How successful were you at making friends with local (i.e., not international) students?

[Decent, joining a team helped.](#)

What was it like to adjust to the culture of your exchange site?

[Easy.](#)

What, if any, cultural differences did you find particularly challenging?

What parts of the culture did you most appreciate?

[People's friendliness and the deep historical ties.](#)

How were you treated by local people? By university staff and faculty? By students?

[Everyone was nice.](#)

As far as you could tell, how easy would it be for students with disabilities to study at your partner university?

[Some difficulties, they didn't seem very well prepared for that.](#)

For students who are visible minorities in your host country?

[Very easy.](#)

TAKING STOCK

What are the three most important things for students to take with them when they go to your host country or region?

[A rain jacket, Lots of Money, Passport.](#)

What are the three most important things you would tell a UVic student who is going to your partner university on exchange?

Go there to get involved in the university, not to travel. Sure go away some weekends, but get involved in a team and hang out with the locals. Go to the organized activities and meet people especially early on.

Is there any other information that you think might prove useful to UVic exchange students attending your host university?

Monday and Wednesday are the party nights, organize your schedule appropriately. Most sports team's games are Wednesday during the day. The third floor of Baa Bars is the best.

What was the most rewarding part of your exchange experience?

Playing on the Rugby Team.

What was your greatest challenge on the exchange?

Getting classes organized, and making good friends.

How has your perspective changed as a result of the exchange?

There are few big, but lots of small differences between Canadian and English cultures. I would say that I am more aware of the differences living in a different society can have on an individual. Also I like Canada more now.

What else do you want to say about your exchange experience?

Do it, because the effort is minimal when compared to the reward.